

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 IGA-02 AGR-20

PRS-01 RSR-01 /107 W

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R 161130Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, CE

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTERS URGENT REQUEST FOR PL 480 WHEAT FLOUR

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO AND ASSISTANT AID ADMINISTRATOR
MACDONALD FROM AMBASSADOR

REF: A) STATE 127046

B) STATE 129268

C) COLOMBO 1617

D) COLOMBO 1788

1. AS REPORTED REFTTEL D, PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE HAS NOW
APPEALED DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT NIXON FOR PL 480 WHEAT FLOUR
SHIPMENTS TO MEET DESPERATE FOOD SHORTAGE FACING HER GOVT
DURING LAST THREE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR. THIS REQUEST FOLLOWS
APPROACHES MADE TO BOTH OF YOU BY PLANNING SECRETARY GUNASEKERA
IN LATE JUNE AND PMJS PREVIOUS INFORMAL APPROACH TO ME.

2. I HOPE SRI LANKA'S CHARGE HAS ACCURATELY REPORTED ON
POSSIBILITY AID WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE 35,000 TONS OF WHEAT
FLOUR PER MONTH BEGINNING MID-OCT. IN ANY EVENT, I HOPE
YOU WILL CONTINUE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE DELIVERIES OF AS
MUCH WHEAT FLOUR AS POSSIBLE PRIOR TO END OF DECEMBER. I AM
FULLY AWARE OF ALL CONSTRAINTS FACING US IN FOOD GRAIN
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SITUATION, BUT I CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT THAT WE MEET GSL'S

REQUEST FOR FOOD. THIS IS CASE IN WHICH RELATIVELY SMALL
AMOUNT OF WHEAT FLOUR WILL GENERATE VERY POSITIVE POLITICAL
RETURNS BOTH IN TERMS OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND IN TERMS
ENHANCED PROSPECTS FOR POLITICAL STABILITY HERE.

3. PRIME MINISTERS LEAVES COLOMBO JULY 28 FOR COMMONWEALTH
PRIME MINISTERS MEETING IN OTTAWA. IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, I
WOULD LIKE TO CONVEY TO HER SPECIFIC ASSURANCES THAT WE WILL
BE ABLE SUBSTANTIALLY TO MEET GSL'S WHEAT FLOUR NEEDS DURING
LATTER PART THIS YEAR. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF THIS CAN BE
DONE.
VAN HOLLEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973COLOMB01789
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730732/aaaaaxjd.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 127046
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Jan-2002 by willialc>; APPROVED <23-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTERS URGENT REQUEST FOR PL 480 WHEAT FLOUR FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO AND ASSISTANT AID ADMINISTRATOR
TAGS: EAID, CE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005